whether the technocrat is to be appointed or not. It is done in consultation with the PESB and they don't have to confine themselves to the technocrats.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: He has not answered part (b) of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is neither accepted nor shelved. It is under consideration.

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Observation of reservation policy at various levels in Government departments and of public sector undertakings is a Constitutional obligation of the Government. I want to know whether the Government has instructed observation of reservation policy in the appointment of Directors of the Board. I would also like to know whether any Director belonging to SC/ST is in the present Board. Part (c) of my question is whether any attempt has been made to fulfil this obligation of the Government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There are three types of Directors— functional Directors, Government Directors and non-official Directors. The Board of Directors is not appointed in consultation with the Public Enterprises Selection Board. It is an Appointments Committee, which appoints the Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is about SC/ST. Will you try to see that those belonging to SC/ST get a chance?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would take it that earlier they must have paid attention to it. But whenever the Boards are appointed, I would certainly see that utmost importance is paid to this aspect. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said he will take full care.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: My supplementary relates to part (c) of the question in respect of the functioning of the Board of Directors. Not long ago the Chairman of Indian Airlines, Air Marshal Ramdass, resigned. He was one of the ablest men of Indian aviation and was a man of highest integrity.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: In the papers it is said that he resigned because the Ministry intervened whereas he and the Board wanted to take action against the pilots who were holding the nation to ransom. May I, therefore, know from the Minister as to what is the extent of autonomy of the Board of Directors in the matter of dealing with the employees who create such havoc with the nation's economy and with the functioning of the Indian Airlines?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Certainly a discipline is exerted by the Board of Directors. But I do not know whether he was talking now about the Ministry or the Board of Directors.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: About the Board of Directors. I thought I was very simple ..... *(Interruption)*... .The extent of autonomy and interference by the Ministry.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: 'Ac would like to give full autonomy to the Board of Directors. However, when a crisis occurs, I don't think the Ministry can remain entirely silent. Now as far as the hon. Member's question is concerned about air Marshal Ramdass, I would like to point out that there is a recorded minute to this effect signed by Capt. Kacker, the Director (Operations) and the Director (Personnel) in which the Ministry only came into the scene after the CMD, that is, at that time. Air Marshal Ramdass apprised the Secretary. Ministry of Civil Aviation of deadlock in the talks between the management and the ICPA and the CMD also mentioned that he had told the ICPA representatives to meet the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the latter to see them, with a view, to normalise the situation. So it is on a specific request that the Secretary. Civil Aviation met the pilots.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 443.

DOT'S demand for Rs. 40,000 cror

*443. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications are demanding Rs. 40,000 crores to meet their growing demand for telephone connections; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allow DOT to mobilise resources ;n the market for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The draft 8th Plan proposals as drawn up by Department of Telecom, envisages an outlay of Rs. 40,555 crores for expansion of telecommunication services during the plan period.

(b) The plan is proposed to be financed with internal resources to the tune of nearly 74% during this period and the remainder from extra budgetary resources. The eighth Plan is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. For the year 1992-93, an outlay of Rs. 4500 crores has been provided which includes a provision of Rs. 1071 crores for bonds.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chiarman, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that three-fourths of the resource mobilisation will be from the internal resources. Sir, the thrust in the Eighth Plan, according to the information available, the priority of telephone connections on demand will be in the rural and backward regions especially tribal areas.

Secondly, the wait-list of persons who seek telephone connections will be reduced to two years. But the infrastructural facilities for achieving these objectives practically are not being followed in the Telecommunications Ministry. Even today if we see the waitlist of persons wanting telephone connections, it is running into lakhs. They have to wait for seven years in some places to get telephone connections. That is the trend.

But, Sir, I have to congratulate the Telecommunications Minister for having given thrust to the rural areas and the backward regions. I came to know that there was a preliminary meeting between the Telecommunications Minister and the Planning Commission. In that meeting the Planning Commission has identified to the Ministry for privatisation of certain equipment manufacturing industries especially the switch and other things to reduce the investment by the-Telecommunications Ministry. I would like to know whether the Ministry has taken any decision in this regard. If not, I would like to know the reaction of the Minister in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fact that we have planned a very ambitious eighth Plan. If you see the figures of the Seventh Plan it was Rs. 8000 crores and the Eighth Plan it is Rs. 40,000 crores. Earlier telephone connections in rural areas were not given that much importance because if you see the record in the last 45 years, we have given connections in the range of 39,000 to 40,000 villages. Now, we have taken up the task of connecting all the Panchayats of this country by the 31st March, 1995. We have taken up a target to connect every day 100 Panchayats. I am happy to inform the House in the last six months, we have connected 18000 Panchayats whereas in 45 years we have connected 39,000 villages. In the Eighth Plan we have kept Rs.7000 crores only for giving rural connections in the villages.

I totally agree with what the hon. Member has said. This is our thrust and the Plan approach. Now, coming to funds, we have projected Rs. 40,000 crores. Mr. Chairman, the mistake I made was, I did not ask for the Exchequer money; I did not ask for Budgetary support. Every time, in the Plan, Budgetary support was there. Even in the Seventh Plan, there was a Budgetary support of Rs. 14 crores. This time, I said, "Allow me my internal sources and borrowing from the market. Mine is a revenue-earning department. I can repay it and expand my system." They have agreed in principle. Discussions are going on. I am very happy that the discussions with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry are encouraging. We are hopeful of reaching our aim. Today, we have 23 lakhs on the waiting list. But the House will be happy to know that we have reduced to waiting period in respect of OYT from six years to six months. But 31st December 1991, we had cleared all the waiting lists in the

four metropolitan cities. I am very hopeful of bringing down the period of wait all over the country to four years or five years. My target is to make it one year by the Eighth Plain period. The plan is for two years. But I may reach my target in one or one and a half years. We have opened up production of telephone lines. With the latest technology of ET B-10, Erikson, etc., we are hopeful that the production will also go up. We plan to add 75 lakh lines in the Eighth Plan period and the waiting list will be taken care of, especially in all the rural areas.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he has not answered the other part of the question about privatisation, Planning Commission's directions.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As far as privatisation is concerned, the Government has no intention of privatising the service sector in telecommunication. It is only the value-added service that we have liberalised. We are not going to have any privatisation at the moment.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The hon. Minister has stated that the value-added service is going to be privatised and an Expert Committee has been appointed to suggest ways and means to the Telecommunications Ministry. I would like to know whether the Committee has submitted its recommendations. If so, what are those things? In the Telecommunications Ministry, the hon. Minister has fixed a target that for 1000 lines, 37 persons would operate. Now there has been a ban on recruitment in Department for more than six years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I know, in auto exchanges and manual exchanges.. .*(Interruption).*

MR. CHAIRMAN^ Put your question, please.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY. I would like to know whether the Govemment, the Telecommunications Ministry, when they go in for ambitious plans, will lift the ban so that more persons can be recruited for the purpose of achieving tne objectives.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT. I would like to say this for the information of the hon. Member. When you change an exchange to electronic or STD from manual, the man-power, man-hour, used gets, reduced. I am utilising that manpower, man-hour, by training them on higher technology and employing them somewhere else, the requirement of manpower, man-hour, gets reduced with technology upgradation. Earlier, for an outside call, you had to give the number and wait for a man to connect it. But now you have the STD. And the man sitting at the desk is being utilised somewhere else. I am not short of manpower. My expansion is with man-power. With the introduction of modern technology, utilisation of man-power is reduced. We will be absorbing that here. We will train them on the up-to-date technology in the various centres of the country. We have divided them into four, North, South, East and West. We are updating their knowledge on the latest technology and are utilising their services. So, the hon. Member should not have that apprehension.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: What about the Expert Committee?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have already answered it in reply to the first question. Only on the Expert Committee's recommendation, we have liberalised the value-added service sector for the private sector. For that, the offers are being opened today. May be by 12 o'clock, they will open and I will have some information.

श्रीमती सरला बहिन: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश इतना बड़ा और देश का महत्वपूर्ण राज्य होते हुए भी संसाधनों की कमी के कारण वहां पूरे देश भर से औसत टेलीफोनों की संख्या बहुत कम है जिसकी वजह ये है कि वहां पर संसाधन नहीं दिये जा रहे हैं? श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह संचार मंत्री थे, उनके देहावसान के बाद से निरंतर संसाधनों की कमी चली आ रही है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि आगामी वर्षों में इस असंतुलन को दूर करने के लिए क्या उत्तर प्रदेश को अतिरिक्त संसाधन जुटाये जायेंगे या नहीं दिये जायेंगे?

श्री राजेश पायलट: सभापति जी, जहां तक उत्तर प्रदेश का सवाल है, मैं परसों ही लखनऊ में था और मीटिंग भी लेकर आया—जहां पर जो इस साल के टार्गेट हैं, हमारी बहिन अगर अच्छी तरह से पढ़ें, तो

पिछले पांच साल से सब से ज्यादा टेलीफोन लाइन्स हम उत्तर प्रदेश में दे रहे हैं। इलैक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज भी उत्तर प्रदेश में, अगर सही रूप में देखा जाए, तो काफी मात्रा में वहां दी गई है और खुशी की बात है बाराबंकी, जिस दिन में लखनऊ में था, वहां पर मुझे सी०जे०एम० ने बातया कि बाराबंकी के एक गांव से हमारे गांव के एक भाई ने हमारे पी०सी०ओ० से अपने बेटे से पेरिस में बात की। तो वह उनसे बिल मांगने लगा।

मैंने उनसे कहा कि पहला बिल मत दो बेचारे को, गांव से पेरिस में बात की है, एक खुशी की बात है, उसको बिल मत दो...(**व्यवधान**)

इतना सुधार हो रहा है और उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में...(**व्यवधान**) तो इस तरह का सुधार हमारे रूरल एरियाज में हो रहा है।

अगर माननीय सदस्या यह महसूस करें कि यहां पर सुधार हो सकता है, तो मुझे बतायें मैं उस पर जरूर गौर कररुंगा...(**व्यवधान**)

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन: मेरा मतलब यह है कि पिछले दिनों लखनऊ से बात की थी, तो मालूम पड़ा था कि आगरा और इलाहाबाद जैसे बड़े शहरों में भी संसाधन की कमी की वजह मे टेलीफोन नहीं दिये जा रहे हैं। तो इस काम को दूर करने के लिए आप कुछ करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे? और अगर आप इस असंतुलन को दूर करने के लिए कुछ कर रहे हैं, तो मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूं।

श्री राजेश पायलट: सभापति जी, पूरा संसाधन है और मैं यह चाहूंगा कि जहां केंद्रीय सरकार के विभाग हैं, अगर हम संतुलित नहीं बनायेंगे, तो वह देश के लिए अच्छी बात नहीं हैं। केन्द्र सरकार होने के नाते हर विभाग का यह दायित्व है और फर्ज है कि पूरे देश में संतुलन बराबर बना रहे और हर प्रदेश में सरकार की नीतियां पूर्ण रूप से पहुंचे। उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में जहां तक आगरा की बात कही गई है, वहां के टार्गेट भी मैं बता रहा हूं जो 31 मार्च तक हमने दिये हैं। वहां पर काफी कमी आई है। वह सूचना मैं माननीय सदस्या को अलग से दे दूंगा कि कितनी कमियां इन पिछले दो-तीन महीनों में हम लाये हैं।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आज़मी: सदर मोहतरम, इंडियन टेलीमवासलात को इंटरनेशनल सतह का और खसूसी तौर पर जर्मनी के मुकाबले का बनाने के लिए कितना पैसा और वक्त दरकार होगा और इस सिफ्त में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है, मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करें?

†مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی (صدر محترم اطہر فیلی۔ مواصلات کو انٹرنیشنل سطح کا اور خصوصی طور پر جرمنی کے مقابلے کا بنانے کیلئے کتنا پیسہ اور وقت درکار ہوگا اور اس سمت میں حکومت کیا کارروائی کر رہی ہے، منتری مہودے بتانے کی کرپا کریں۔

श्री राजेश पायलट: सभापति जी, जहां तक टैक्नालोजी की बात है जिस तरीके से हमने ओपनिंग की है इस सैक्टर में, आज भी जी०एस०एम० की टैक्नालोजी वर्ल्ड में सब से बढ़िया है और बहुत से डिवैलप्ड कंट्रीज में भी वह नहीं है। हमने शुरूआत ही उससे की है, यह सोच कर की कोई फायदा नहीं कि हम आऊटडेटिड टैक्नालोजी लें और दो-चार साल में फिर दुबारा उसको अपडेट करें। अगर ईश्वर ने चाहा तो शायद जर्मनी से कहीं आगे पांच साल में हम होंगे रूरल एरियाज़ में भी और अर्बन एरियाज में भी। जर्मनी के जितने लेबर हमसे मिले हैं, हमारी रूरल टैक्नालोजी को उन्होंने भी एप्रिशिएट किया है और जहां-जहां मैं गांव में गया हूं, कहीं-कहीं लोग कहते हैं कि साहब कोई साधन काम करे न करे, यह टेलीफोन का डिब्बा जरूर काम करता है। जो हमारी सी-डाट की टैक्नालोजी है, कितनी ही रेत हो, कितना ही बुरा आसपास का रहने का वातावरण हो, फिर भी काम चल रहा है, लेकिन जैसी हालत में हम लोग काम कर रहे हैं, उनमें मुझे उम्मीद है कि अगले दो-तीन साल में काफी सुधार होगा और माननीय सदस्य खुश होंगे कि जर्मनी कहीं पीछे रह जाएगा।

Scarcity of Coal in Thermal Power Stations in the Capital

*444. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to scarcity of coal in the thermal power stations in the capital, some major power crisis are expected;

(b) if so, what arc the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have since contemplated any concrete steps to make sufficient availability of coal to the thermal power stations in the capital; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†Transliteration in Arabic Script.